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in China, and when proper use would be made of this combustible, which they possessed in such immense quantities.

Mr. W. LOCKHART, after speaking of the reverence with which Confucius was regarded in China, said he had seen similar tablets to those described in the paper, in Peking, some of them undoubtedly dating from before the time of Confucius. The whole of the plain of Peking was certainly a great coal formation, spreading from the sea as far as to the Western Mountains. The quality of the coal was equal to that of the South Wales and Newcastle coal. When steam machinery was brought to bear on those coal beds, there would not only be a sufficient supply for our Indian steamers, but probably Chinese coal would be brought to England, as now English coal was taken to the coast of China for our steamers there.

Mr. J. MARKHAM said the whole of the valley through which he had travelled was covered with pyramids of coal, and his journey was impeded by the traffic of carts laden with coal.

Admiral Sir WILLIAM HALL said, on one occasion when coal was 10*l.* a ton on the coast of China, he captured a large convoy of Chinese colliers. It was very desirable that those mines of coal in China should be worked, so as to supply the vessels sailing those seas. After the capture of Nankin he saw immense piles of coal along the wharfs.

Eighth Meeting, 14th March, 1870.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in
the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Lewis Alford, Esq. ; Peter Turner Wills, Esq.*

ELECTIONS.—*Charles Ashton, Esq. ; William James Anderson, Esq. ; Lewis Alford, Esq. ; Charles Fairbridge, Esq. ; Charles W. Gray, Esq. ; Edward Gellatly, Esq. ; James G. Gibson, Esq. ; T. Douglas-Murray, Esq. ; Rev. W. R. Tilson-Marsh, M.A. ; M. the Chevalier de Overbeck ; Robert Turtle Pigott, Esq. ; Albert Walker, Esq. ; Thomas Watson, Esq. ; Peter Turner Wills, Esq.*

ACCESSIONS TO LIBRARY FROM FEBRUARY 28TH TO MARCH 14TH.
—‘Letters from Egypt.’ By Lady Duff Gordon. 1865. ‘Pilgrimage to Harran.’ By Mrs. Beke. 1865. ‘Wild Tribes of Khondistan.’ By Major Campbell. 1865. ‘Life with the Esquimaux.’ Captain Hall. 1864. ‘Ionian Islands,’ &c. By E. Giffard. 1837. ‘Tropical Australia.’ By Colonel Mitchell. 1848. ‘Cotton Kingdom, U.S.’ By Olmsted. 2 vols. 1861. ‘Pekin and the Pekinese.’ By Dr. Rennie. 2 vols. 1865. ‘River Plate States.’ By W. Latham. 1868. ‘The Argentine Alps.’ By H. C. R. Johnson. 1868. ‘South Australia.’ By W. H. Leigh. 1839. ‘Manners and Customs of the Japanese,’ from Siebold. 1841. ‘Travels in Canada.’ By Kohl. 1861. ‘Prehistoric Man.’ By Dr. Wilson. 1862. ‘The Native Races of Russia.’ By R. G. Latham. 1854. ‘A Classical

Tour.' By E. Dodwell. 1819. 'Venezuela.' By E. B. Eastwick. 1864. 'North Africa.' By J. Ormsby. 1864. 'Morocco and Algiers.' By Colonel Scott. 1842. 'The Orkneys.' By D. Gorrie. 1868. 'Visit to America.' By W. Chambers. 1854. 'Celt, Roman, and Saxon.' By T. Wright. 1861. 'Transylvania.' By C. Boner. 1865. 'Nicaragua, &c.' By F. Boyle. 1868. 'Voyages en Orient.' Par Aucher-Eloy. 2 vols. 1830. 'Voyage à la Guinée.' Par J. H. Van Bastiaanse. 1853. 'St. Helena.' By T. H. Brooks. 1828. 'Recherches géographiques sur Dicuil.' Par A. Letronne. 1814. 'L'Ile Madagascar.' Par Flacourt. 1658. 'Constantinople.' By Grelot. 1780. 'Kamschatka.' By J. Grieve. 1764. 'Taurus.' By Th. Kotschy. 1858. 'Maris Carneiro Hydrographia.' By Andres de Poza. 'Congo.' By Pellicer de Tovarre. 1681. 'Observations géographiques.' Par Peyssonel. 1765. 'The Mediterranean Sea.' By R. Richardson. 2 vols. 'Reisen durch Palestina.' Von U. J. Seetzen. 'Vossius de Nili Origine.' All by purchase.

ACCESSION TO THE MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28TH.—A Chart showing the Track of the Swedish Expedition in 1868 under Nordenskiöld and Von Otter. Presented by Dr. A. Petermann.

The PRESIDENT, in opening the proceedings of the evening, stated that he had that morning received a letter from Dr. Kirk, announcing the unwelcome tidings that cholera had broken out with great severity in and near Zanzibar, and that it had spread to a certain extent into the interior of the mainland. Lord Clarendon had communicated to him (the President) the same intelligence. The object in introducing the subject was to allay any alarm with regard to the safety of Dr. Livingstone, as he was far removed from the zone in which the cholera was raging; but the supplies which had been purchased in Zanzibar, and forwarded to him, would of course be delayed for a time, as the porters conveying them had been attacked by the epidemic.

The following Papers were then read :—

- 1.—*On Morrell's Antarctic Voyage in the year 1823, with Remarks on the Advantages Steam will confer on future Antarctic Explorers.* By Captain R. V. HAMILTON, R.N.

THE pre-eminence Britain has maintained in Antarctic discovery we owe to Cook, Ross, Weddel, Biscoe, of the Royal Navy, and to Kemp and Balleny of the mercantile navy. Nor must we forget those public-spirited merchants, Messrs. Enderby, who, to their pecuniary loss, instructed their captains to consider discovery their first object, profit their second consideration, to which we owe the discovery of Kemp, Enderby, Sabrina, and Graham's Land, and the